

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04206 171047 Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 NIC-01 RSR-01 /116 W
----- 088895

R 171017 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8019

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 4206

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: PASSOVER OBSERVANCE IN MOSCOW

1. AN OVERFLOW CROWD THROGGED TO MOSCOW'S CHORAL SYNAGOGUE EVENING APRIL 16 TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAYER SERVICE USHERING IN PASSOVER HOLIDAY. FOLLOWING SERVICE, SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE, MOSTLY YOUNG, REMAINED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO SYNAGOGUE TO SING AND DANCE. AS IN RECENT YEARS, POLICE DIVERTED TRAFFIC ONTO STREET RUNNING IN FRONT OF SYNAGOGUE TO PREVENT WORSHIPPERS FROM CONGREGATING IN STREET AND TO ASSIST IN CROWD CONTROL.

2. AUTHORITIES PERMITTED CELEBRATIONS TO CONTINUE FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES BEFORE MOVING IN TO CLEAR AREA. GETTING BEHIND CROWD ON SYNAGOGUE STEPS, POLICE MOVED THEM TO SIDEWALK AND THEN AWAY FROM SYNAGOGUE AREA. CROWD DISPERSED IN SLOW, BUT ORDERLY MANNER, AND NO ARRESTS OBSERVED BY EMBOFF PRESENT.

3. COMMENT: IN COMPARISON WITH RECENT YEARS, POLICE WERE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE TOLERANT AND RESTRAINED IN HANDLING CROWD, FACT NOTED BY SEVERAL YOUNG JEWS WHO SPOKE WITH EMBOFF.
DUBS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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